TWELVE FIERCE WARRIORS TAKE ON THE NAMES OF THE ZODIAC...
THE ZODIAC WAR IS HELD ONCE EVERY TWELVE YEARS.
JUNI TAISEN: ZODIAC WAR
Manga by
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Based on the novel by
HOSHINO
Character design by
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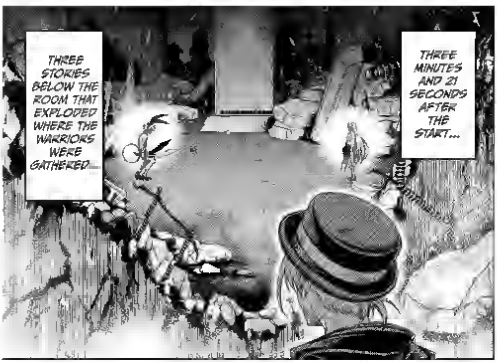
THE SOLE VICTOR GETS THE PRIZE OF BEING GRANTED ANY SINGLE WISH.
...AND STAKE THEIR LIVES AND SOULS IN A FORMAL BATTLE TO THE DEATH.
CHAPTER TWO
RABBIT, SNAKE, CHICKEN, DOG, BOAR

EACH COMPETITOR WAS GIVEN ONE OF TWELVE JEWELS TO SWALLOW..
...AND VICTORY GOES TO THE FIGHTER WHO CLAIMS THEM ALL

SNAKE
DRAGON
RABBIT
TIGER
OX
RAT

BOAR
DOG
CHICKEN
MONKEY
SHEEP
HORSE


THREE STORIES BELOW THE ROOM THAT EXPLODED WHERE THE WARRIORS WERE GATHERED...
THREE MINUTES AND 21 SECONDS AFTER THE START...

BOAR VS RABBIT.
THE FIRST BATTLE IS ABOUT TO BEGIN...

I AM USAGI, THE FIGHTER OF THE RABBIT.
I KILL WITH DISTINC-TION.
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I AM INŌNOSHISHI, THE FIGHTER OF THE BOAR.
I KILL IN ABUN-DANCE!
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SO, YOU KNOW ENOUGH MANNERS TO PROPERLY INTRODUCE YOUR-SELF!

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HE'S QUITE FAST, THAT'S FOR SURE.
BUT MY MACHINE-GUN'S BULLETS WILL ALWAYS BE FASTER.

THAT WON'T WORK!!
WILL YOU WAIT FOR ME TO RELOAD?
IT'S FUTILE!
WILL YOU THROW YOUR SWORDS AT ME?
I NEVER HAVE TO STOP AND RELOAD. I CAN KEEP ON SHOOTING AS LONG AS I LIKE, WHEREVER I LIKE.
NOT WHEN I HAVE A POWER AS GRACEFUL AND ELEGANT AS MINE— MAKING IT RAIN
I CAN TAKE MY TIME SIFTING THROUGH WHAT'S LEFT OF YOU TO FIND YOUR JEWEL.
ONCE MY BULLETS REDUCE YOU TO A BLOODY PULP
IT'S TIME TO FILL YOU WITH HOLES.
NOW...

WH-
WHO
IS IT
?!

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…HOW COULD I NOT SENSE THEM!?
AND—
WHAT? HOW COULD SOMEONE GRAB ME FROM BEHIND?
HOW DID THIS LUNATIC, OF ALL PEOPLE …
MANAGE TO FORGE AN ALLIANCE IN THOSE BRIEF MOMENTS AFTER THE FLOOR EXPLODED—?

WHO...
WHO ARE YOU?
WHO WOULD EVER GO ALONG WITH A PLAN LIKE THAT?
...ND HE EVEN STABBED HIS ...LLY TOO...
!!

H-HOW IS THIS POS-SIBLE?
THAT'S SNAKE'S BODY... BUT HE'S DEAD
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HE DOESN'T HAVE A HEAD?!

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Y-YOU...
YOU'RE A NECRO-MANCER?!

NO WONDER I DIDN'T SENSE ANYONE BEHIND ME...
IT WASN'T ANYONE IT WAS A CORPSE

I CAN MAKE FRIENDS WITH PEOPLE I'VE KILLED.
NO, A NECRO-MANTICIST.

HE HAS THE POWER TO CONTROL THE DEAD!

NOT ONLY WAS SHE THE SUCCESSOR OF THE PREVIOUS WINNER, SHE WAS FAVORED TO WIN THIS ZODIAC WAR TOO.
HE EASILY MANAGED TO KILL BOAR..

IT WAS JUST A PRECAUTION— I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE AWARE OF MY POWER.
HEY, I'M SORRY I LIED ABOUT NOT KILLING THE FIGHTER OF THE SNAKE
AND NOT HIS MIND.
NOT HIS POWER.
RABBIT NOTHING ABOUT HIM IS NORMAL
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS MY END.
I...I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
HEY, TOSHIKO
TOSHIKO

I DON'T UNDERSTAND, TOSHIKO.
WHY WOULD HE PASS OVER YOU THE ELDER SISTER.
...AND CHOOSE ME TO REPRESENT THE BOAR IN THE ZODIAC WAR?
JUST WHAT COULD FATHER BE THINKING?
...
WHO BELONGS AT THE TOP OF THE WORLD, STANDING ABOVE ALL OTHERS?
ME.
IT'S OBVIOUS THAT I MUST ENTER THE ZODIAC WAR AND THAT I MUST WIN.
THAT'S WHY...

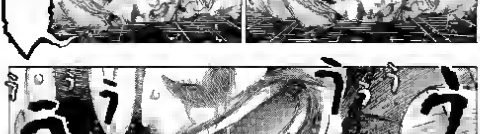
...AND CLAIMED THE INVITATION FOR MYSELF.
THAT'S WHY I KILLED MY YOUNGER SISTER...

PLEASE FORGIVE ME, ALL RIGHT?

NOW ...
...TO END SO DISGRACE-FULLY...
BUT NOW ...

...YOU'LL BE MY FRIEND TOO.
BECAUSE FROM NOW ON...

AH...
AKH
WAH...



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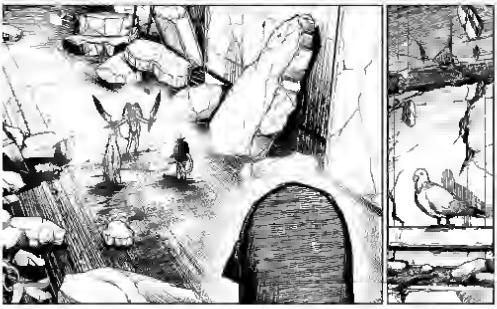
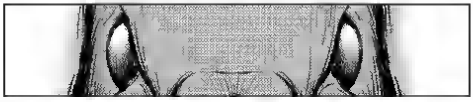
SEVEN MINUTES AND ELEVEN SECONDS AFTER THE START. RABBIT DEFEATS BOAR.

RABBIT'S
CORPSE
ALLIANCE
IS
FORMED.





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.. HAVE SOME KIND OF SUPER-POWER ?
IN THIS TWELFTH ZODIAC WAR...
IS IT POSSIBLE THAT ALL OF THE FIGHTERS ..

AND THEN THERE'S THIS ONE
NECRO-MANTICIST.
THE FIGHTER OF THE RABBIT
MAKING IT RAIN.
THE FIGHTER OF THE BOAR

DOTSUKU, THE FIGHTER OF THE DOG.
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REAL NAME, MICHIO TSUKUI BORN ON MAY 5
HE'S 177 CENTIMETERS TALL AND WEIGHS 52 KILOGRAMS
HE WORKS AS A DAY CARE TEACHER, AND...
BY ALL ACCOUNTS, HE TAKES HIS JOB SERIOUSLY
...AND IS POPULAR WITH PARENTS AND KIDS ALIKE.
TEACHER!
MR. DOTSU-KUI!
TEACHER!

BUT...

...AND DELIVERING THEM TO THE ORGANIZATIONS THAT WANT THEM.
IN SECRET HIS REAL PROFESSION IS FINDING CHILDREN WHO POSSESS CERTAIN GIFTS...
HIS JEALOUSY HAS EARNED HIM MANY ENEMIES, BUT...

...HAVE BEEN CALLED THE MAD DOG'S RIVET. WHICH IS GREATLY FEARED.
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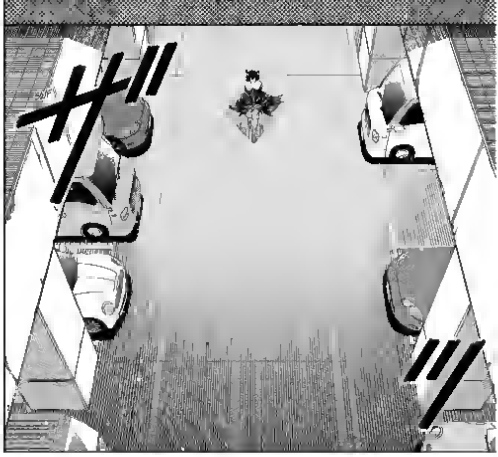
HIS VICIOUS TEETH, CAPABLE OF PULVERIZING ANYTHING...

THE MAD DOG'S VISE
THAT MUST BE...
...THE FIGHTER OF THE DOG'S SPECIAL POWER

BIRDS ?
...

IN TWELVE HOURS, THE JEWELS WILL FULLY DISSOLVE.
BUT THE EFFECTS OF THE POISON WILL LIKELY START BEFORE THEN. WITHIN TEN HOURS FROM NOW, IT'LL AFFECT OUR FIGHTING
IN A BATTLE ROYALE, IT'S BEST NOT TO MAKE ANY BIG MOVES EARLY ON.
WITH THIS TIME LIMIT, WE'RE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO STRAY FAR FROM WHERE WE ARE. WE'LL ALL KEEP A CERTAIN DISTANCE FROM EACH OTHER...
AND WAIT FOR AN OPENING
EXCEPT THIS TIME.
SOME SAY IT'S DARKEST UNDER THE LIGHT-HOUSE..
...BUT I JUST THINK THIS IS A GOOD PLACE TO HIDE
B2
THIS TIME, EVERYONE SWALLOWED THOSE POISON JEWELS.
B2F
PARKING

DEEP DOWN, EVERY DOG WANTS TO WAIT
WELL, I'LL WAIT. THAT'S MY PREROG-ATIVE
THAT'S RIGHT.
WHEN YOU THINK YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO, SOMETIMES YOU NEED TO DO THE OPPOSITE.
OX.
MY BIGGEST PROBLEM IS THE NATURAL-BORN SLAYER



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HE'S NOTHING MORE THAN A KILLER—
I SHOULDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT RABBIT—
.. JUDGING BY HOW HE KILLED SNAKE BEFORE THE BATTLE HAD EVEN BEGUN
AND HE DOESN'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO SURVIVE A ZODIAC WAR.
ONLY ONE OTHER FIGHTER CONCERNS ME..
..
FOOOOUND YOU!!
A FIGHTER WHO COULD CATCH ALL OF US OFF GUARD LIKE THAT MUST BE—
—AND THAT'S WHOEVER CAUSED THE FLOOR TO EXPLODE.

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ALL RIGHT AS A FIGHTER I CAN FIGURE OUT HOW TO HANDLE THIS
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TSK I DIDN'T THINK ANYONE WOULD FIND ME HERE-

I MEAN YOU NO HARM.
AH! OH, PLEASE DON'T MISUNDER-STAND
!!

I... I WANTED TO SEE IF WE COULD TEAM UP.
I... I ONLY CAME TO YOU BECAUSE... BE-CAUSE... WELL...

TEAM UP?
...

THERE HE IS...
AND HE'S NOT ALONE...
DOTSUKU, THE FIGHTER OF THE DOG
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NIWATORI, THE FIGHTER OF THE CHICKEN.
SHE'S 153 CENTIMETERS TALL AND WEIGHS 42 KILOGRAMS
REAL NAME, RYŌKA NIWA BORN ON JUNE 6

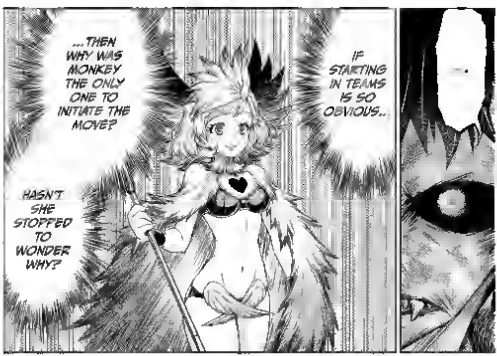
BUT WILL HE BE SO EASILY CONVINCED ?
IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S TRYING TO TEAM UP WITH DOG

..TO MONKEY'S OFFER.
I GUESS SHE DID RESPOND

..AND I THINK STARTING IN TEAMS IS OBVIOUSLY THE BEST IDEA.
THIS IS A BATTLE ROYALE
MAYBE SHE REALLY IS A PACIFIST AFTER ALL..

THEN WE'LL HAVE A FAIR FIGHT, ONE-ON-ONE. IT'S AS EASY AS THAT.
WE CAN JOIN FORCES UNTIL WE'RE THE LAST TWO LEFT.

WON'T YOU JOIN ME?!
SO PLEASE!


...THEN WHY WAS MONKEY THE ONLY ONE TO INITIATE THE MOVE?
HASN'T SHE STOPPED TO WONDER WHY?
IF STARTING IN TEAMS IS SO OBVIOUS...

TERRIBLE, TERRIBLE DANGER!
PLEASE, WE HAVE TO HURRY, WE'RE IN DANGER
AND WHAT'S WITH THAT COSTUME?
DOESN'T SHE SEE THE RISK OF BETRAYAL? IS SHE THAT STUPID?

...A NECRO-MANTICIST !!
IT'S RABBIT. HE'S...
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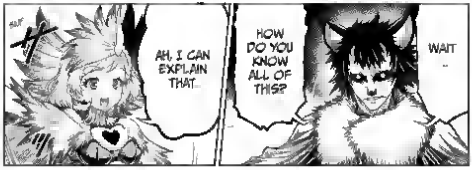
A NECRO-MANTICIST ?
THAT'S CRAZY SURELY A POWER LIKE THAT DOESN'T REALLY EXIST.
IT DOES!
AND HE'S KILLED BOAR! HE ALREADY HAS TWO ALLIES!!

THE MORE HE KILLS, THE MORE FIGHTERS HE HAS UNDER HIS COMMAND.
A NECRO-MANTICIST

BUT MORE THAN THAT...
A CREATOR AND A HORROR.
HE'S A KILLER AND A CREATOR.

THE POWER TO CONTROL THE FIGHTERS HE KILLS...
...GIVES HIM AN ADVANTAGE LIKE NONE OTHER.
HE CAN FORM AN ALLIANCE THAT WILL NEVER BETRAY HIM—AND THERE'S NO NEGOTIATION REQUIRED.

HM?
IN THAT CASE...


AH, I CAN EXPLAIN THAT.
HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL OF THIS?
WAIT..

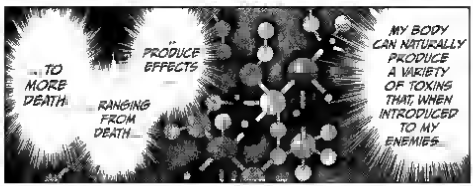
!!

SHE'S ...
...
THAT'S HOW YOU FOUND ME DOWN HERE.
SO...

I CAN COMMUNE WITH ALL KINDS OF BIRDS!
MY POWER IS CALLED THE EYE OF THE COR-MORANT.

SHE'S ALREADY REVEALED HER POWER. IT DOESN'T GET DUMBER THAN THAT.
SHE'S ONLY JUST MET ME AND YET—
♪
SHE REALLY IS STUPID !!
—BUT SHE HAS NO IDEA WHY I CHOSE TO HIDE IN THIS PLACE
SHE MAY HAVE FOUND ME HERE...
THAT MY SPECIAL POWER IS MY BITE
I'VE LED EVERY-ONE TO BELIEVE...

...MASTERY OVER POISON.
BUT MY REAL POWER IS...


...TO MORE DEATH!
...PRODUCE EFFECTS RANGING FROM DEATH...
MY BODY CAN NATURALLY PRODUCE A VARIETY OF TOXINS THAT, WHEN INTRODUCED TO MY ENEMIES...

WHEN I SAW THOSE JEWELS, I KNEW IMMEDIATELY THEY WERE POISON.
BY THE TIME I TOOK MINE INTO MY MOUTH...
...MY BODY HAD ALREADY BEGUN TO WORK ON PRODUCING THE ANTIDOTE.

IT ALMOST FEELS LIKE CHEATING, BUT I'M NOT GOING TO FEEL GUILTY OVER IT.
MY PLAN WAS TO STAY IN HIDING HERE
...UNTIL ONLY THREE FIGHTERS, OR MAYBE FEWER, REMAINED

CHICKEN.
CAN YOU SEE WHERE RABBIT IS RIGHT NOW?
O-OF COURSE
I'M KEEPING MY WATCHERS A FAIR DISTANCE AWAY SO THAT RABBIT WON'T REALIZE HE'S BEING WATCHED
BUT NOT SO FAR THAT THEY COULD LOSE THEIR TARGETS

ALL RIGHT.
...

LISTEN, I HATE WORKING WITH OTHERS..
...BUT JUST IN THIS CASE, I'LL MAKE AN EXCEPTION FOR YOU. I ACCEPT YOUR OFFER.
I'VE LOST MY ADVANTAGE I NEED TO CHANGE MY STRATEGY
I HAVE TO PUT DOWN RABBIT AND HIS MINIONS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE

AS FOR CHICKEN.. I'LL USE HER FOR ALL SHE'S WORTH
WE'RE GOING RABBIT HUNTING.
WE'LL KILL HIM.
AND I'LL KILL HER WHEN SHE'S OF NO USE ANYMORE

I AM NIWATORI, THE FIGHTER OF THE CHICKEN.
I KILL BY PECKS.
I AM DOTSUKU THE FIGHTER OF THE DOG
I KILL IN BITES.

JUST HOW CAN I USE HER?
NOW THE QUESTION IS...
...BUT WILL IT BE ENOUGH TO STOP RABBIT?
DOG AND CHICKEN HAVE FORMED AN ALLIANCE...